40. Midwives in Panchayat Jurisdictions.

As the mover was absent the following resolution was also considered withdrawn.

Mr. Ouseph P. Kundukulam:—This Council recommends to the Government to appoint midwives in all Panchayat Jurisdictions.

41. Test Audit.

Deputy President.—Mr. C. A. Kunjunny Raja.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—My resolution in the agenda is, "This Council recommends that arrangements be made as early as possible fot the test audit of the accounts of the State by a competent officer as was done in 1097 and 1083". In the copy I have sent I have put it as 1079 for 1097. There was no test audit in 1097.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is only a transfer of 7 and 9.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—This subject of test audit has come before the Council on two occasions. In the first year of the Council the resolution was moved by no less a person than Mr.C. Achyuta Menon, the then Member for Mulakunnathukavu, who has to his credit a wide experience about the administration of Cochin. The suggestion was to appoint a particular officer and on that ground the resolution was objected to. The Government and the House were agreed that there was need for a test audit. Since objection was taken to the latter part of the resolution specifying the particular officer and since there was no suitable amendment before the Council that resolution was lost in the First Council. In the Second Council the objectionable portion of the earlier resolution was removed and my resolution for the test audit in the terms of the present one was seconded by Mr. P. Krishna Menon and it was also supported by the Deputy President of the Council. The Government as usual opposed. In spite of that, the resolution was carried. The object of the test audit is stated in the Account Code itself. The test audits were conducted in the years 1079 and 1083 by Mr. Hensman of the Madras service and what is stated in the Administration Reports about the test audit is that it has been of great use to the Government and great many irregularities were removed. The main objection to my resolution is that we have now got an expert audit officer and there is no necessity to have the aid of any foreign agency. My answer is those who work the system are not the best judges to decide on it. Everybody is agreed that a test audit is necessary. In the Proceedings on the subject published in the last Gazette the Government have already extended the test audit to some of the departments where there was no audit before. The names of such departments are the Diwan Peishkar's Office, the Chief Engineer's Office etc., etc. Therefore in a

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way the Government have already accepted the resolution. That may not serve the whole purpose of the resolution. Those who are really in charge of the working are not the proper persons to see whether the rules have been applied properly and whether any improvement has to be suggested and that is the reason why I say we must, if possible, get an outside agency to see whether the requirements of the Account Code are fulfilled. There is no disparagement at all on the efficiency, honestly or any ofher matter connected with any officer. This is necessary even according to their own rules in the Account Code. The test audit was done last time in 1083 and for the last 23 years nothing has been done. This ought to have been done long ago by the Government themselves. The move for this must have come from the Government itself and I am really sorry that in spite of two resolutions, the Government did not think it necessary to carry out a test audit demanded by the Account Code. These are the reasons which have induced me to move this resolution.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I second it.

Mr. K. Krishna Pishardi.—I have only to inform the House that the question is receiving the consideration of the Government.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In the face of that assurance, I do not press the resolution to a division.

The resolution was therefore, withdrawn with leave of the House.

42. Circulars re: Hand-spinning.

The following resolution was not moved and so it was considered withdrawn

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar:—This Council recommends to the Government to withdraw such of their circulars as have a tendency to affect adversely the progress of hand-spinning in the State.

43. Toddy shops near Muslim Quarters.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—The Boothakulam toddy shop at Irinjalakuda has been ordered to be abolished from next year. Some of the Muslims of the locality have put in a statement stating that they are unavoidably compelled to allow it to b there for this year; in a way they have agreed to have it there this year. I take this opportunity of tendering my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Muslims of Irinjalakkuda to the Government and particularly to the Member for Excise Revenue for the commendable promptness with which steps have been taken for its abolition. I do not therefore move my resolution.

Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

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